

Application No. 09/774,826
Amendment dated August 8, 2003
Reply to Office Action of May 19, 2003

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-42 were pending in the above-captioned patent application at the time of the Office Action. The Office Action allows claims 19-22 and 26-33. Claims 1-13, 17, 18, 23-25, 34, 36, 37 and 39-42 are rejected. Claims 14-16, 35 and 38 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response to the objections and rejections, applicant amends claims 1, 15, 35, and 36, cancels claims 13, 14, 23-25, 37, 38, and 42 and adds new claims 43-50. The specific consequence of each claim amendment, cancellation or addition is set forth below.

Rejected claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 14 and the limitations of intervening claim 13. Accordingly, claims 13 and 14 have been canceled and currently amended claim 1 is in a condition for allowance. Rejected claims 2-12, 17, 18 and 34 are likewise in a condition for allowance as depending directly or indirectly on allowable independent claim 1.

Objectionable claim 15 has been amended to include the limitations of previously amended claim 1. Accordingly, currently amended claim 15 is in a condition for allowance. Objectionable claim 16 is likewise in a condition for allowance as depending directly on allowable independent claim 1.

Rejected claims 23-25 have been canceled and are no longer at issue.

Objectionable claim 35 has been amended to include the limitations of previously amended claim 1. Accordingly, currently amended claim 35 is in a condition for allowance.

Rejected claim 36 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 38. Accordingly, claims 37 and 38 have been canceled and currently amended claim 36 is in a condition for allowance. Rejected claims 39-41 are likewise in a condition for allowance as depending directly or indirectly on allowable independent claim 36.

Rejected claim 42 has been canceled and is no longer at issue.

New claims 43-50 depend directly on allowable independent claims 1, 15, 26 or 35. New dependent claims 43-50 are added to more narrowly recite the composition of the

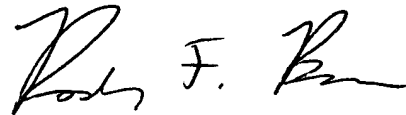
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sweep stream which is more broadly recited in each of the independent claims on which the new claims depend.

Conclusion

In conclusion, applicant respectfully asserts that all pending claims X in the instant patent application are allowable for the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, an early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (858) 272-8705 for any reason that would advance the instant application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rodney F. Brown".

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